

**In the Abstract:**

*Following the claims, please add the abstract as follows:*

**--Abstract of the Disclosure**

A multiprotocol encapsulation (MPE) encapsulator (6) receives or generates a copy or partial copy (10') of service information data (10) and generates associated forward error correction (FEC) data. In addition to transmitting service information data in a conventional way via a first set of channels, the MPE encapsulator transmits the copy 10' and the associated FEC data via a second set of channels.

(Figure 4)--